



Editors' Note

This year we bring you a special double issue dedicated to the study of tribal culture in India. Some of our readers might wonder why we took the decision to publish two special issues on Indian tribal culture successively. The reasons for the decision are complicated and many, but suffice it to say that we chose to do so in good faith. The study of Indian tribal culture thrived during the colonial era, but was curtailed after Independence, since officials deemed it a sensitive issue. In recent years, however, some remarkable work has appeared (mostly in Europe but also in North America) on South Asian tribal culture.

When we put out our earlier call for special issues, two proposals that emerged in a most complete form were based on conferences held in northern and southern Germany respectively. Given that one dealt specifically with tribal culture in Northeastern India and the other with Central and South India, we decided to publish both in succession, since there was very little ethnographic overlap in the data presented in each volume. In fact, the two are complementary and could conceivably be used together effectively in the classroom.*

Although we have a number of other special issues in the pipeline that focus specifically on geographical regions (for example, China, Japan) or thematic subjects (that is, religion and natural disasters), we still encourage individuals to submit their work for independent review. The first issue for 2015 will consist of individual articles, and we remain committed to publishing the best work we receive after a rigorous external review process.

At the same time that we continue to follow precedents set with the journal in the past, we also strive to expand into new frontiers. To this end, we are pleased to announce that audio-visual material related to the journal, including those that accompany published articles, can be viewed on the journal website by clicking the links to Audio-Visual Materials. We also wish to reinstitute film reviews in the not-so-distant future, for we believe that visual anthropology deserves its rightful place at the table. Finally, we realize that certain areas of

Asia have not received enough attention by the journal. The omission is not by choice but by circumstance. To remedy this lack, we hope to continue soliciting essays that deal with underrepresented areas of the vast region our journal covers.

If you, our readers, have suggestions or comments for the editorial staff, please do not hesitate to contact us. We also hope you will urge your colleagues to submit essays for publication as well as books and films for review. We strive to make our journal the best that it can be by taking seriously the concerns of our readers. We also remain committed to maintain our open access status, a feature that we believe is very appealing to our readership, especially in economically underprivileged nations, where subscription fees can hinder reception. We therefore also encourage you to ask your librarians to subscribe to *Asian Ethnology*, if they have not done so already.

*Due to the number of languages utilized in this issue, some of which are oral, with no script, and others that borrow heavily from standard languages belonging to the Indo-Aryan and Dravidian families, it would be a difficult task indeed to standardize all of the spellings of foreign words used by the authors. We have therefore decided to leave the spellings as the contributors submitted them or later revised them, even though they may not conform to the Library of Congress system of transliteration to which this journal normally adheres.

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